

Groundwater Chapter For Water Plan & Some Related Questions

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Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:08 AM**To:** DWR CWP Comments

Dear Paul: I have been spending some time this week going over the SWRCB's recently released Groundwater Workplan Concept Paper, on which the Board is currently seeking stakeholder input. In addition, I have been reading through some of the background materials posted on the Board's website, in addition to some other sources I have consulted on my own. One of the useful things I have found for this purpose is the current draft Conjunctive Use and Groundwater Management Chapter for the Water Plan. I find the Recommendations at the end to be particularly useful.

I would like to know two things: First, will the DWR be engaging with the Water Board on the Board's Concept Paper? (I would certainly hope so.) On the Water Board paper, my feeling is that the Water Board and the Regional Boards should stick to water quality first and foremost, and that DWR should be taking the lead on groundwater quality, in partnership with local and regional interest, with some potential help from the Legislature.

I find many of the Recommendations in the Draft Groundwater Chapter to be quite useful, both in their specificity and their breadth of scope--although another question I have is how those Recommendations and proposed actions by the DWR will be actually carried out.

Incidentally, I re-read the ACWA Groundwater Report of a few years ago and agree with much of it. However, I do believe there is a necessary role for stronger leadership and coordination at the state and regional levels. I think someone needs to articulate this, as I really do believe it is a necessary component of a path forward on California's major groundwater issues. I do hope the DWR will be in position to step up to the task.

The size of the groundwater problem is very large and growing. We all need to get real and get moving in a much proactive and responsible way.

The second thing I would like to know is whether the Volume 4 Companion Report is available, even in rough form. I look forward to your response. Thank you!

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